

**Amendments to the Claims**

This listing of claims will replace all prior listings of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims**

1. (Currently Amended) An elongate base for a patient supporting platform, comprising;

a frame;

first and second hydraulic jacks mounted at spaced apart locations on said frame adjacent opposite ends thereof, each of said first and second hydraulic jacks being configured to connect to said patient supporting platform for effecting a lifting and lowering of said patient supporting platform relative to said frame, said first and second hydraulic jacks each having a reciprocal input mechanism for effecting when reciprocated a lifting of the respective end of the patient supporting platform, each said reciprocal input mechanism having a first part of a two part releasable connection thereon;

a manually operable member and a mount for mounting said manually operable member for reciprocal movement relative to said frame;~~and~~

a first linkage member having thereon a pair of longitudinally spaced second parts of each of said two part releasable connections, each said second part being releasably connected to a respective one of said first parts to effect a connecting of said manually operable member to each of said input mechanisms, said first linkage member being configured to convert the reciprocal movement of said manually operable member to a reciprocal movement of said first linkage member to effect a simultaneous lifting of said patient supporting platform in response to the reciprocal movement of said first linkage member;

wherein each said first part is an elongate rod having a first section of a first diameter, said first section having an annular groove therein defining a second section of a second diameter less than said first diameter;

wherein each said second part is a plate connected to said first linkage member and having a two sector opening therethrough, a first sector of said opening being configured for reception of said first section of said elongate rod therethrough so as to facilitate installation and removal of said first linkage member, said second sector of said opening being smaller in size than said first sector and being configured to receive therein only said second section of said elongate rod so as to facilitate a securement of said first linkage member to each of said reciprocal input mechanisms to thereby facilitate simultaneous operation of said reciprocal input mechanisms in response to reciprocal movement of said first linkage member.

CLAIM 2 (Cancelled).

3. (Currently Amended) The elongate base according to Claim 2~~1~~, wherein said second sector is oriented vertically above said first sector so that a self-contained weight of said first linkage member will cause said second section of said elongate rod to operatively remain in said second sector during reciprocal movement of said first linkage member.

4. (Currently Amended) An elongate base for a patient supporting platform, comprising:

a frame;

first and second hydraulic jacks mounted at spaced apart locations on said frame adjacent opposite ends thereof, each of said first and second hydraulic jacks being configured to connect to said patient supporting platform for effecting a lifting and lowering of said patient supporting platform relative to said frame, said first and second hydraulic jacks

each having a reciprocal input mechanism for effecting when reciprocated a lowering of said patient supporting platform, each said reciprocal input mechanism having a first part of a two part releasable connection thereon;

a first manually operable member and a first mount for supporting said first manually operable member for reciprocal movement relative to said frame;

a first linkage member having thereon a ~~pair of longitudinally spaced second parts of each~~second part of said first two part releasable connection, ~~each~~said second part being releasably connected to said first ~~parts~~part to effect a connecting of said first manually operable member to said reciprocal input mechanism on said first hydraulic jack, said first linkage including a releasable coupling mechanism interconnecting said first linkage member and said first manually operable member;

a second manually operable member and a second mount for supporting said second manually operable member for reciprocal movement relative to said frame;

a second linkage member having thereon a second part of said first two part releasable connection, ~~each~~said second part being releasably connected to said first ~~parts~~part to effect a connecting of said second manually operable member to said reciprocal input mechanism on said second hydraulic jack, said second linkage member including a releasable coupling mechanism interconnecting said second linkage member and said second manually operable member.

5. (Original) The elongate base according to Claim 4, wherein said first and second linkage members are both elongate rods, wherein each reciprocal input mechanism includes a rod receiving pocket thereon, each said pocket releasably receiving therein one end of a respective said elongate rod to thereby define said first part of said first two part releasable connections thereat, each said elongate rod having a respective opposite end and one part of a second

two part releasable connection thereat, said first and second manually operable members each having a second part of said second two part releasable connection operatively coupled to respective said one parts.

CLAIM 6 (Cancelled).

CLAIM 7 (Cancelled).

8. (Currently Amended) An elongate base for a patient supporting platform, comprising:

a frame;

a manifold plate mounted on said frame;

a hydraulic jack configured to connect to said patient supporting platform for effecting a lifting and lowering of said patient supporting platform relative to said frame, said manifold plate having connective passageways hydraulically connected to said hydraulic jack and a reciprocal input mechanism for effecting when reciprocated a lowering of said patient supporting platform, said reciprocal input mechanism comprising a plunger reciprocally movably supported in a hollow sleeve and having a region along a length thereof of reduced cross sections, at least one of said connective passageways being hydraulically connected to and extending between a hydraulic fluid reservoir for said hydraulic jack and said region;

a valve member on said plunger oriented adjacent one end of said region and being reciprocally movable with said plunger, a valve seat on said hollow sleeve adjacent said one end of said region at least when said valve member and said valve seat engage one another;

an elastically yieldable member for effecting continual urging of said valve member toward said valve seat;

hydraulic fluid pressure equalizing means on said plunger and said hollow sleeve for assuring equalized fluid pressure acting on both ends of said region so that only a return force

of said elastically yieldable member needs to be overcome in order to cause movement of said valve member away from said valve seat.

9. (Original) The elongate base according to Claim 8, wherein said hydraulic jack is mounted directly onto said manifold plate.

10. (Original) The elongate base according to Claim 9, wherein said base includes a manually operable member and a mount for supporting said manually operable member for reciprocal movement relative to said frame.

11. (Original) The elongate base according to Claim 10, wherein said base additionally includes an elongate linkage, one end of which is operatively connected to said manually operable member and another end of which is connected to one end of said plunger remote from said valve member.

12. (Original) The elongate base according to Claim 11, wherein said one end of said plunger includes a pocket, said one end of said linkage being releasably received in said pocket.

13. (New) An elongate base for a patient supporting platform, comprising;

a frame;

first and second hydraulic jacks mounted at spaced apart locations on said frame adjacent opposite ends thereof, each of said first and second hydraulic jacks being configured to connect to said patient supporting platform for effecting a lifting and lowering of said patient supporting platform relative to said frame, said first and second hydraulic jacks each having a reciprocal input mechanism for effecting when reciprocated a lifting of the respective end of the patient supporting platform, each said reciprocal input mechanism

having a first fastener part of a two part releasable fastener connection thereon, said two part releasable fastener connection being configured for a connected condition and an unconnected condition;

a manually operable member and a mount for mounting said manually operable member for reciprocal movement relative to said frame; and

a linkage member having thereon a pair of longitudinally spaced second fastener parts of each of said two part releasable fastener connections, said first and second fastener parts being configured to releasably connect to and disconnect from a respective other of said first and second fastener parts to effect a connecting of said manually operable member to each of said reciprocal input mechanisms, said first linkage being configured to convert the reciprocal movement of said manually operable member to a simultaneous reciprocal movement of said first linkage member and said reciprocal input mechanisms through a connected said first and second fastener parts to effect a simultaneous lifting of said patient supporting platform in response to the reciprocal movement of said manually operable member.

14. (New) The elongate base for a patient supporting platform according to Claim 13, wherein the configuration of said first and second parts enables the connecting and disconnecting to occur without a use of auxiliary tools.

15. (New) The elongate base for a patient supporting platform according to Claim 14, wherein a self contained weight of said linkage member maintains at least one of said first and second fastener parts in said connected condition.